Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

These and additional objects are accomplished by the various aspects of the present invention, wherein briefly stated, one aspect of the invention is method for scheduling static and dynamic traffic through a switch fabric including one or more switch slices, comprising for individual such switch slices: scheduling static traffic by reserving time slots for transmitting the static traffic to at least one destination through a switch slice; and scheduling dynamic traffic so as not to be transmitting the dynamic traffic to the at least one destination during the reserved time slots through the switch slice, wherein the scheduling dynamic traffic includes receiving dynamic traffic scheduling requests, aging previously received and not granted dynamic traffic scheduling requests, and discarding expired dynamic traffic scheduling requests to define active dynamic traffic scheduling requests.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

Another aspect is an apparatus for scheduling static and dynamic traffic through a switch fabric including one or more switch slices. Included in

Applic. Serial No. 09/865,258   Page 2 of 28   Atty. Docket No. ZCOM.003US0
                                                                                March 29, 2005

individual ones of such switch slices are buffers for
storing requests for transmission of dynamic traffic to
dynamic traffic destinations through the switch slice,
wherein the buffers include request shifters that receive
dynamic traffic scheduling requests, age previously
received and not granted dynamic traffic scheduling
requests by shifting them upon each clock pulse controlling
transfer of cells to and from the switch slice, and discard
expired dynamic traffic scheduling requests by shifting
them out of the request shifters; a memory storing a
schedule of static traffic to be transmitted to at least
one static traffic destination through the switch slice;
and a grant scheduler coupled to the buffers and the memory
for reserving time slots for transmitting the static
traffic to the at least one static traffic destination, and
scheduling selected ones of the requests for transmission
of dynamic traffic so as not to be transmitting any of the
dynamic traffic to the at least one static traffic
destination during the reserved time slots through the
switch slice.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 4, line 11 with the following amended
paragraph:

        In yet another aspect, a SONET/SDH network
element comprises: a plurality of line cards; and a
plurality of switch slices individually coupled to each of
the plurality of line cards, and individually including
means for scheduling static traffic from one of the
plurality of line cards to another or the same one of the

plurality of line cards by reserving time slots for
transmitting the static traffic through the individual
switch slice, and means for scheduling dynamic traffic so
as not to be transmitting the dynamic traffic to the
another or the same one of the plurality of line cards
during the reserved time slots through the individual
switch slice, <u>wherein the scheduling dynamic traffic
includes receiving dynamic traffic scheduling requests,
aging previously received and not granted dynamic traffic
scheduling requests, and discarding expired dynamic traffic
scheduling requests to define active dynamic traffic
scheduling requests.</u>

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 18, line 19 with the following amended
paragraph:

    FIG. 10 illustrates a flow diagram of a method
for determining destination winning requests for dynamic
traffic through a switch slice in a destination round-robin
tournament fashion that is suitable for performing <u>904</u> ~~903~~
in **FIG. 9.** In **1001**, the destination is initialized as the
first available destination in ordered sequence. In **1002**,
the grant scheduler **406** searches the request shifters **402**
for a request having the current destination. In **1003**, if
a request having the current destination is not found, then
the grant scheduler **406** goes to **1004** to determine whether
the current destination is the last destination in ordered
sequence. If it is, then the grant scheduler **406** proceeds
to **905** in the method described in reference to **FIG. 9.** On
the other hand, if it is not the last destination in

ordered sequence, then the grant scheduler **406** goes to **1005** to increment the destination to the next available destination in ordered sequence, and then jumps back to **1002**, to once again search for a request with the current destination.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 19, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, if a request having the current destination was found in **1003**, ~~1002~~, then in **1006**, the grant scheduler **406** continues to search the request shifters **402** until it finds another active request having the current destination. In **1007**, if after doing so, there is no other active dynamic traffic scheduling request having the current destination, then the originally retrieved dynamic traffic scheduling request is declared a destination winner in **1008**, and the grant scheduler **406** goes back to **1004** to either proceed to **905** or **1005** as previously described.